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Communist Riddle Grows in Perplexity

Secretary of State Dulles, repeating in essence what his brother of the CIA said a week before, asserts that Russia's anti-Stalin campaign has thrown international communism into "a state of perplexity."

It has. But none may say to what degree.

In point of fact Dulles follows not merely his brother Allen but European observers who made identical comment weeks ago.

Russia remains an enigma.

Indeed, in the manner of the burned child dreading the fire, there are some who believe the Russians deliberately are creating what seems to be confusion and perplexity merely to lull their enemies.

This, of course, could be true. But it is unlikely. After all, the Russians are neither supermen nor perfectionists. In the very nature of things it cannot be otherwise than that perplexity would follow the denunciation of Stalin, who was for so many years the god of the Soviet machine.

Millions of men and women, taught that "Father" Stalin was the source of all that is good and true, would be perplexed to hear the truth—namely, that he was a half-crazed murderer and egomaniac.

The Communist Parties in other countries were not informed of the Khrushchev-Bulganin decision to become anti-Stalinists. The leaders in France, Italy, England, the U.S. and all other countries were left out on the Stalin limb and made to look like monkeys.

In Italy, for example, not only is the Communist leadership temporarily discredited and lacking in authority, but the Socialist fellow-travelers who have given the Red party its real strength in Italy have pulled out and attacked Khrushchev. In France the top echelon is divided.

As further proof of the worry of the Kremlin group there is the publication Wednesday in Pravda of Moscow of an editorial from the New York Daily Worker demanding to know what the present leadership did, if anything, to stop the excesses of Stalin.

That question is coming at the Kremlin from all sides—like so many dead cats.

This one is easy to analyze.

Pravda was ordered to print what is, when measured by past conditions, a sensational indirect criticism of top Soviet leadership—a thing which would have been suicide under Stalin.

This can mean but one thing. The Kremlin residents, Khrushchev and Bulganin, want an opportunity to explain why nothing was done. They may even reveal that they killed Stalin, though admittedly this is an extreme possibility.

There just has to be perplexity—in some degree—in international communism. Our weapon is to exploit it by deeds and propaganda of freedom. If we fail, the opportunity may slip away from us.